

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12, 14-38 and 40-55 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 13 and 39 were previously cancelled. On September 16, 2008, the Applicants filed a Notice Of Appeal to appeal the decision of the Examiner in the Final Office Action dated June 12, 2008, finally rejecting claims 1-14, 14-38, and 40-55. Applicants have not yet filed an appeal brief.

With this amendment, claims 22 and 48 have been amended to change the dependency of these claims from cancelled claims 13 and 39 to the base claims 1 and 27, respectively. Applicants submit that claims 22 and 48 as amended are now in better form for consideration on appeal in accordance with the rules for entry of an amendment following the filing of a Notice of Appeal but prior to the date of filing a brief. (See, MPEP 1206).

Accordingly, Applicants request that the amendments to claims 22 and 48 be entered and that the Examiner provide early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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